

From: Dellinger, Philip
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From: Hubbard, Joseph
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 8:45 AM
Subject: Resending: Daily News Digest, Friday, August 1

1 – EPA's proposed ozone rules could choke Louisiana industry, business group says, Times Picayune, 7/31/2014

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/07/proposed_epa_ozone_rules_could.html

Louisiana businesses and consumers could face one of the most expensive federal regulations in history, according to a new study released Thursday (July 31) by the National Association of Manufacturers, an industry advocacy group.

The study, conducted for the association by NERA Economic Consulting, estimates it will cost Louisiana companies \$189 billion over two decades to comply with new limits on ozone emissions the Environmental Protection Agency is slated to propose later this year.

2 - Lowering ozone standard could cost Louisiana jobs, economic activity, industry group predicts, Baton Rouge Advocate, 8/1/14

<http://theadvocate.com/news/9869572-123/lowering-ozone-standard-could-cost>

Louisiana stands to lose billions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs, and 80 percent of the state's coal-fired power plants will be forced to shut down if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lowers the federal ozone pollution standard, according to a new report from industry. The National Association of Manufacturers released the report commissioned from the NERA Economic Consulting on Thursday to bolster its argument that a tougher ozone standard would have disastrous impacts on the economy.

3 – Testimony, advocates clash at EPA coal hearings, Houston Chron, 7/31/14

<http://www.chron.com/news/science/article/2-days-of-EPA-coal-pollution-hearings-set-to-begin-5659164.php>

Union miners and others opposed to stricter pollution rules for coal-burning power plants proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency clashed inside and outside the city's federal building on the first of two days of public hearings on the new regulations. About 5,000 union members, led by the United Mine Workers of America, on Thursday marched to the William S. Moorhead Federal Building chanting, "Hey, hey, EPA! Don't take our jobs away!"

4 - Manufacturers' study: New EPA rules could cost Arkansas 10,000 jobs, Fort Smith City Wire, 7/31/14

<http://www.thecitywire.com/node/34066#.U9uCCPldXl4>

A study released by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) on Thursday said the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new ozone standards could cause Arkansas to lose more than 10,000 jobs, pay more

than \$240 million in environmental compliance costs, and shut down most of the state's coal-fired electric generation.

5 – La. groundwater program may need \$900,000 a year to continue, Advocate, 7/31/14

<http://theadvocate.com/news/9819767-123/la-groundwater-program-may-need>

The state will need to find up to \$900,000 a year to extend its groundwater monitoring program past 2015, members of the state Water Resources Commission were told Wednesday. The monitoring program is a result of a 2011 report calling for better information about the condition of the state's groundwater resources. About \$2.7 million from federal sources funded the initial three-year ramp up of the groundwater monitoring conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

6 – Pipeline Proposal Revives Eminent Domain Debate, Texas Tribune, 8/1/14

<http://www.texastribune.org/2014/08/01/pipeline-proposal-revives-eminant-domain-debate/>

Amid an oil and gas boom that has increased demand for new pipelines, Texas regulators have proposed new rules that have renewed a clash between two major state interests: energy development and private property rights.

7 – Tensions Stir At EPA Hearings On New Emission Rules, KUNM, 8/1/2014

<http://kunm.org/post/tensions-stir-epa-hearings-new-emission-rules>

The coal industry made its presence known in Pittsburgh this week for public hearings on President Obama's controversial plan to address climate change. A key element is rules the Environmental Protection Agency proposed in June. They would cut greenhouse gas emissions — chiefly carbon dioxide — from existing power plants. The national goal is 30 percent by 2030, based on 2005 levels.

8 – Simple strategies for keeping the house cool -- and the utility bill down -- in the heat of summer, Times Picayune, 7/31/2014

http://www.nola.com/homegarden/index.ssf/2014/07/simple_strategies_for_keeping.html

Midway through the summer, deep into our coping strategies for beating the heat, one concern looms especially large for me: the utility bill. Even in well-maintained homes, there can be challenges that force air conditioners to work overtime. Some of the best tips for keeping your house cool in the peak of summer are the simplest. Here are the basics.

9 – Proposed St. Tammany fracking operation mounts PR offensive, Times Picayune, 7/30/2014

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/07/fracking_company_seeks_to_tell.html

Bumpy and mysterious to those who might unwittingly come upon it, the narrow gravel road leading to the site of a proposed fracking operation near Mandeville could be a metaphor for the oil drilling project itself.

10 – West Nile on the rise; combative efforts increase, 7/31/2014

<http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20140731/NEWS01/307310028/West-Nile-rise-combative-efforts-increase>

Nine mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile during the past three weeks, causing the Ouachita Parish Mosquito Abatement District to hit the air to stop the spread of the virus. Ouachita Parish Mosquito Abatement Director Shannon Rider said West Nile was present in pools collected during early July before much of the aerial spraying was initiated.

11 – 1,100 layoffs planned at Alpha coal mines in W.Va., El Paso Times, 7/31/2014

http://www.elpasotimes.com/nationworld/ci_26253810/1-100-layoffs-planned-at-alpha-coal-mines

One of the nation's largest coal producers said Thursday it expects to lay off 1,100 workers at 11 southern West Virginia surface coal mines by mid-October, citing dismal markets and federal regulation. The announcement by Alpha Natural Resources dealt another blow to Appalachia's iconic, but dwindling, fossil fuel industry. The company said 2015 industry forecasts show Central Appalachian coal production will be less than half of its 2009 output.

12 – From Oklahoma to Ohio, States Take Measures to Quell Quakes Related to Drilling, BNA, 7/31/2014

http://news.bna.com/delIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=50744539&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0f3y7y9k8&split=0

As production of natural gas and oil has surged in tight shale plays throughout the country, some regions have reported experiencing a significant increase in earthquake activity, possibly attributed to drilling activities. In an effort to mitigate increased earthquake activity, states such as Arkansas, Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas have re-examined regulations, tightening requirements around data reporting, seismic monitoring and information required for permit approval for production and disposal wells. States are also shoring up their authority to shut down wells that are suspected to be linked to recent seismic activity. Additionally, states are imposing restrictions on the location of wells, and several states have imposed moratoriums on drilling in certain areas where seismic activity has increased.

13- (Opinion) EPA's proposed rules on CO2 above criticism, Houston Chron, 7/31/2014

<http://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Eidlin-EPA-s-proposed-rules-on-CO2-above-5660795.php>

Some national business organizations have hammered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for proposing new rules on carbon pollution from existing power plants, cutting carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030, using 2005 levels as a baseline. What planet are they on?

14- Dwindling Drought Doesn't Mean a Slowdown in Water Conservation Efforts, StateImpact NPR, 7/31/2014

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2014/07/31/dwindling-drought-doesnt-mean-a-slowdown-in-water-conservation-efforts/>

Despite more than 80 percent of the state still being under some level of drought, recent wet weather and below average temperatures continue to reduce the severity and size of drought in Oklahoma. As The Oklahoman's Graham Lee Brewer Reports, this week's rainfall "bookended one of the wettest July's on record for the state, with some areas receiving more than seven inches of rain."

15- Major oil field spill in Kingfisher County, KOCO, 7/30/2014

<http://www.koco.com/news/major-oil-field-spill-in-kingfisher-county/27236612#!bsWH6O>

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reports it may be the biggest spill from fracking they've ever handled. Now there are concerns about tainting the town's water supply. Nearly 500 barrels of acid spilled in an alfalfa field Monday morning. The chemical HCL is used for fracking operations. There's concern heavy rain will push the runoff into nearby Turkey Creek, which flows into Hennessey's water system.

16- U.S. Wildlife Authorities Join State in Investigation of Owl Deaths at Oil Field Site, StateImpact NPR, 7/31/2014

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2014/07/31/u-s-wildlife-authorities-join-state-in-investigation-of-owl-deaths-at-oil-field-site/>

Federal authorities have joined state officials in an investigation of bird deaths at a neglected oil field site in northwestern Oklahoma. Two oil-covered barn owls were found along with several other dead birds. The owls were taken in by a Fairview caretaker licensed to handle non-migratory birds, but both owls later died, the Enid News & Eagle and Associated Press report.

17- As Renewable Energy Grows, Wind and Solar Pull Ahead of Hydropower, StateImpact NPR, 8/1/2014

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2014/08/01/as-renewable-energy-grows-nationally-wind-and-solar-pull-ahead-of-hydropower/>

Wind and solar energy now routinely surpasses hydroelectric generation as an energy source in the United States, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Hydroelectricity generated by Austin's Tom Miller Dam, in operation since 1940, is a renewable resource. Hydroelectricity generated by Austin's Tom Miller Dam is a renewable resource. Hydropower is the largest source of renewable energy in the U.S. (but, not surprisingly, not in Texas). The state's online Window on State Government calls it "a tiny portion of the state's electricity supply with little economic impact and limited prospects for expansion."